Government has been suggesting to the States/Union Territories, from time to time, measures to improve the working of Public Distribution System by proper control, sustained supervision, efficient management and development of a proper monitoring system at the State, district and block/taluka levels to ensure up-to-date information in respect of availability or otherwise of essential commodities through fair price shops. They have also been advised to develop a suitable district plan in respect of essential commodities in various areas within the jurisdiction of a particular district. Having regard to the consumer oriented nature of the Public Distribution System, the need for active and popular participation of the representatives of consumers in the Consumer Advisory Committees at various levels has also been impressed upon them. A periodical review of the working of Public Distribution System is also made in the meetings of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System which are held under the Chairmanship of Union Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of all the States/Union Territories are ex-officio members of this council. In the last meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies on 29th October, 1985, the representatives of the States/Union Territories were requested to initiate effective steps for covering rural, backward and far-flung areas through a network of fair price shops and also to ensure timely supply of essential commodities to fair price shops through a system of surprise checks and continuous monitoring.

Implementation of Palekar Award

988. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of newspaper establishments in the country which have implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award;

(b) what was the position as on 1st January, 1986 in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the newspapers which have partially implemented or which have not at all implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award; and

(d) what action Government have taken against the management of such newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, which are the appropriate authorities in the matter and the same would be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

Decline in export of cotton textiles

989. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cotton textiles has of late gone down appreciably;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the declining trend in its export; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the cotton textile export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no decline in export of cotton textiles during the first 9 months of 1985-86 as compared to the exports during the corresponding period last year.

(c) steps for improving export of cotton textiles:

(1) Soft loan scheme is available for modernisation of the textile industry.